

ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2013
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB46

Hearing Date: Thursday January 31, 2013
Committee On: Judiciary
Introducer: Ashford
One Liner: Provide for consolidation and coordination of crime laboratories

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:

Aye:	5	Senators Ashford, Lathrop, Christensen, McGill, Seiler
Nay:		
Absent:	1	Senator Davis
Present Not Voting:	2	Senators Chambers, Coash

Proponents:
SEN. BRAD ASHFORD
MIKE BOYLE
HENRY NIPPER

Representing:
INTRODUCER
SELF
SELF

Opponents:
JOHN WELLS
GREG GONZALEZ
STEVE GLANDT
TRACEY RAY

Representing:
OMAHA POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
OMAHA POLICE
DOUGLAS COUNTY SHERIFF
DOUGLAS COUNTY SHERIFFS OFFICE

Neutral:
JERRY SOUCIE

Representing:
SELF

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 46 would require the consolidation and coordination of public crime laboratory services in counties with cities of the metropolitan class in the following manner:

Section 1. Requires Counties with cities of the metropolitan class to consolidate public crime lab services by a vote of the registered voters of the county. (Currently, Douglas County is the only county that this act is applicable to.)

This section would require the applicable county and city of the metropolitan class to appoint a planning board within 30 days after the effective date of this act.

The planning board created under this section shall consist of the following members:

A forensic toxicologist;
An expert in forensic DNA;
A criminologist;
An individual with experience in law enforcement and crime scene investigation; and
A medical ethicist.

The planning board is required to study the issues relating to the consolidation and coordination of the public crime laboratory services of the county and city and they shall develop a plan for consolidation and coordination of those laboratory services. The plan developed by the planning board must contain the creation of an independent governing whose members shall have the same expertise as required of the members of the planning board listed above.

The county board shall require the plan for consolidation and coordination of public crime laboratory services developed by the planning board to be placed on the next statewide primary or general election ballot of the registered voters of the county. If a majority of the registered voters in the county vote for the plan, the plan shall be implemented six months after the election.

Explanation of amendments:

AM398 to LB 46

(2) This Amendment would require a county containing a city of the metropolitan class and the metropolitan class city to create a planning board for the merger of crime labs in their jurisdiction. The planning board shall consist of members with the following expertise:

A forensic toxicologist;

An expert in forensic DNA;

A criminologist;

An individual with experience in law enforcement and crime scene investigation;

A medical ethicist; and

An expert in government efficiency.

(3) The planning board shall study issues relating to the consolidation and coordination of the public crime laboratory services of the county and city and develop a plan for consolidation and coordination of public crime laboratory services.

The planning board shall inventory public sector and private sector resources, identify areas of duplication of services and the extra tax cost of such duplication, conduct needs assessments, and analyze national best practices.

The plan shall provide for an independent governing board of members with expertise in forensics for public crime laboratory services and for accreditation of the crime laboratory by an appropriate national professional accrediting body.

The independent governing board shall have members with the same expertise listed in subdivisions (2)(a) through (f) of this section. The planning board shall develop the plan within six months after the planning board was established and report the plan to the mayor of the city, the county board of the county, and the chairperson of the Judiciary Committee of the Legislature.

Provides that the plan submitted by the planning board will be the basis for legislation by the Judiciary Committee.

Brad Ashford, Chairperson